SHORT

Notes and Obſervations

DRAWN FROM

The preſent decaying condition of this Kingdom in Point of

TRADE,

Laid down in

TWELVE PARTICULARS

Some of which might (if ſeaſonably applyed) poſſibly contribute to our Recovery.

I. *Againſt Tranſportation of our Wools*, &c.
II. *Reformation in our Manufactures.*
III. *To incourage our Fiſhings.*
IV. *All perſons, as well Strangers as Engliſh, that ſhall contribute to the increaſe of our Manufactures, to be equally encouraged.*
V. *All Commodities imploy'd in our Manufactures, as well as our Manufactures, to be free of Cuſtome, or other Impoſition whatſoever.*
VI. *Vain and unneceſſary Commodities to be moſt laden with Duties.*
VII. *Foraign Commodities Exported, to have the whole Cuſtome paid back.*
VIII. Ireland *to be incouraged in ſetting up of Woollen Manufactures.*
IX. *A free Trade to* Virginia, *is the only way to make that Countrey thrive.*
X. *His Majeſties Revenue will be beſt laid for the Nation in general, where it ſhall leaſt burthen or diſturbe Trade.*
XI. *Of Officers to be imploy'd in the Management of His Majeſties Revenue.*
XII. *To Reſtrain our great Exceſs in Apparel*, &c.

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Coue C.

Short Notes and Obſervations drawn from the preſent decaying condition of this Kingdom, in Point of Trade, laid down in Twelve particulars; ſome of which might (if ſeaſonally applyed) poſſibly contribute to our Recovery.

I. THat our Laws againſt the Tranſportation of our *Engliſh* and *Iriſh* Wools, and Yarn, and Fullers-earth, may be further ſtrengthened, where they are found deficient; becauſe we are thereby at preſent robb'd of our beſt and moſt Staple-Trade. The *French*, *Dutch*, *Flemings*, and others, have at preſent thoſe vaſt quantities and conſtant Supplies from us, as that they therewith give Imployment to at leaſt 200000. perſons, whileſt we muſt ſadly look upon, and maintain as many of our own poor, who are rendred miſerable for want of Work: And this deſtroyes and ſpoils our Trade every where, becauſe they having our Wools in ſo great plenty, can make Cloth very much cheaper than we can deliver it to them, which otherwiſe 'twere impoſſible for them to do. This Evill being prevented, we ſhould not only have opportunity to imploy our own Poor, but, ſell ſo much the more of our Commodities in Forain parts; by which we ſhould gain the whole Manufactury and benefit of our induſtry of ſo much Wool as they now ſteal from us, which would be of very high honour and advantage to theſe Kingdoms. Certainly, tis an Error in thoſe Gentlemen, who are of an opinion, that they ſhould not be able to make any thing valuable of their Wools, if there were not ſo much Tranſported (they will ſee no further then their preſent Market); but I am ſure 'twere better for them, and for the Nation in general (if we have an overplus of Wool) to buy it up upon a publick

Note 1.

The *Dutch*, *French*, &c. keep 200000 perſons in work on our Wools.

VVools the cheaper in *England*, becauſe ſo much is Tranſported.

'Twere better for us to burn our Wools, then ſell them to Strangers.

Stock, and burn ſo much as we cannot work up, rather than to ſell it to Forainers. The *Dutch* very prudently obſerve ſomewhat the ſame Method in another caſe, which is worthy here to be taken notice of. 'Tis well known that the *Eaſt-India* Company of *Holland* are at preſent Maſters of the Grand Spice-Trade in *India*; they conſider and calculate what quantities of each ſort they ought to bring home to furniſh their ſeveral Markets; and in ſuch a way and proportion of Importation, as to keep up the Price and Reputation of their Commodity; and therefore if they finde they have too great a Crop in *India*, they only bring home their juſt proportion, and burn all the reſt, and yet loſe not a penny thereby, but 'tis thoſe that come to buy of them that pay for what is burned; becauſe they not only ſave ſo much Fraight and Charges, but make as much or more of what they Import, than if they had brought home their full Crop, to glut or overlay the Market. From whence I think I might conclude, that our Wools are the leſs worth with us at home, and our Manufactures the leſs in eſteem abroad; becauſe ſo much Wool is Tranſported and Manufactured in Forain parts. There are good Laws already in force againſt this Evill, but either they are not well executed, or do not reach fully home; Somewhat is yet wanting which might be eaſily provided for.

The *Dutch* in another caſe obſerve the like order in the *Eaſt-Indies*.

Note 2. Strengthen our Laws for the more faithful working of our Cloth.

II. That the good old Laws for more faithful working of our Woollen, and all other Manufactures, may be revived and executed, according to their true intent and meaning; and may be further ſtrengthened by ſuch other new Laws, as our preſent condition may moſt require; wherein there will certainly want ſome Alterations and Amendments. We have been ſo groſly faulty herein, every way, that our Neighbours have, without any great difficulty, got ground of us; they being very exact in all their Manufactures; and we, on the contrary, have loſt very much of our former reputation in Forain parts by our remiſneſs. A well appointed Committee would ſoon diſcover many abuſes herein, and direct

to

to a very good Reformation. There are at preſent many old Patents in force, which were at firſt granted upon juſt and honourable grounds; but at preſent, the only Deſign of them is, how to gather up the fees and dues allotted for the Officers or Undertakers; never taking care duely to viſit the ſeveral Commodities, which they are bound to do: By which neglect (or, which is worſe, Fraud) all perſons are left at liberty to work and ſell as they pleaſe. This, I am ſure, is one of our grand National Concernments, and Grievances.

That all old Grants and Patents intended for the benefit of our Manufactures may be more faithfully executed or made void.

III. That our Fiſhings may be Protected and Incouraged, by all good wayes and means: which will not only give a conſtant imployment to our Poor of both Sexes; but alſo, wonderfully inrich the Nation. His Majeſty hath been very plentifully gracious in his late Grant for the propagating of this Honourable Deſign; every particular whereof, I am confident, will be very Religiouſly obſerved, how buſie ſoever ſome would be to perſwade His Majeſty to deface his Commiſſion, in that part of it which graunts the returns of Fiſh, as well as the Fiſh, to be Cuſtom-free for ſeven years; whereby they would inſinuate to His Majeſty, how conſiderable his loſs would be in his Cuſtoms, having no reſpect to the high and many advantages that His Majeſty, and the whole Kingdom, will receive, by the imployment and induſtry of ſo many thouſands of perſons as will be concerned therein, abundantly tranſcending any ſuch petty loſs as they can make out will fall on the Cuſtoms. Beſides, they will not conſider, that if His Majeſty loſe it in his Cuſtoms, it goes not into particular Purſes, every Conſumptioner having his ſhare of it; and therefore His Subjects will be hereby the better able, and more ready, to double that ſum to His Majeſty upon all occaſions. His Majeſty knows very well, that great Deſignes are commonly attended with great Difficulties; this buſineſs of the Fiſhing is of high Concernment, the entrance upon it will require large Diſburſments, and very great care and pains, and the profit is hardly to be diſcern'd at ſo great a diſtance; whoſoever expects to be a gainer the three firſt

Note 3. Incourage our Fiſhing.

Some appear too buſie in their indevour to perſwade the King to deface His late Commiſſion or Patent.

years, may be miſtaken; and therefore His Majeſty out of His Royal Grace hath been pleaſed to invite his people to ingage in this honourable and charitable Work; by granting them great Immunities, and particularly that of freeing them from the Cuſtoms for ſeven years; as a part of the returns of all their pains and hazards to which they muſt neceſſarily be liable. But the true meaning and deſign of ſome herein is (I fear) to ſtiffle this good Deſign, becauſe it will threaten and unſettle their profit, as Officers, or Farmers, very much, and take off much of that opportunity, which they now have or may have by the Cuſtoms in their places, not only to wrong His Majeſty, but the Kingdom in general. In a word, if we ſhould yet be ſo unhappy as that his Majeſty ſhould be induced by the ſubtilty of ſuch perſons, to recal but that one clauſe, I ſhould then remain but with very ſmall hopes of any vigorous proceedings in that noble Fiſhing-deſign.

Tis by the Fiſhing chiefly that the *Dutch* are arived to that height of wealth and power by Sea and Land.

Note 4. IV. To give Incouragement and Countenance to ſuch perſons as ſhall contrive and endeavour the advantage and increaſe of our Manufactures, in *England* and in *Ireland*, in imitation of other Countries whether it be by Natives, or by ingenious and induſtrious Forainers; And certainly I cannot but here take notice with what an unreaſonable bitterneſs we generally inveigh againſt admitting of ſtrangers to live amongſt us; I am ſo much of another opinion, as that I am perſwaded if we had 30000 or more able workmen, out of *France*, *Holland*, and *Flanders*, incorporated and naturalized with us, they would be ſo far from doing us hurt, as that they would be of very great advantage to theſe Kingdoms, in our general concernments in Trade and otherwiſe; and would not only be helpful to us, by what they themſelves ſhould work or contrive; but by their good example ingage our own Poor and idle people (who now live by begging and what is worſe) to be more induſtrious, than now they are. And here likewiſe I meet with another fit occaſion to offer to your ſerious conſideration, How many thouſands of perſons in *Holland*, and elſewhere, have not a houſe wherewithal to cover

Incourage all perſons as ſhall endeavour the increaſe of our Manufactures.

Liberty to Forainers to live and work in *England*.

cover their heads; and that in *Holland* especially, where so many Families live altogether in their Boats and other Vessels, floting still upon the streams, sometimes in one place, and then in another; and being frequently driven, to very hard shifts. And then on the other side, when I consider, How many thousands of houses, we have lying void; and how much Land lying waste, not only in our Inland Countrey, but also along our Sea-Coasts; I have by very good reason been perswaded to believe that many of those poor industrious people (who now live under sundry straights and oppressions) would easily be invited to remove their poor and wilde Habitations, if they might find entertainment with us. Certainly, if we did but seriously consider the infinite number of people there are in *Holland*, in comparison and proportionable to what we have in *England*, and the great freedom they give to all strangers, and that tis thereby they grow so potent in Trade and Wealth beyond other Nations (who are (otherwise) more advantagiously scituated than they are): We must then conclude and confess, that tis not that we have already too many people in *England*, as indeed too many do not now only strangely, but strongly and passionately, indeavour to maintain; but rather that we want good Order and Government in the execution of our good Laws, whereby to keep our people well imployed. And therefore if we would so far mind our own interest, as to admit and receive some of those industrious Forainers amongst us; I should have fair hopes, that we might not only thrive in our new Fishing design, to which His Majesty on his part hath been so very gracious in giving large Incouragements; but also in all other parts of our Trade. We would very willingly be as rich and flourishing in Trade as the *Dutch* are: but we will not observe their Method, nor tread in their paths.

The *Dutch* grow rich by the multitude of people, and the great freedom they grant to all persons.

The Parliaments of *Ireland* and *Scotland*, by their late Acts, have granted great Immunities to strangers, for the encouragement and advance of Trade.

V. That all Commodities imployed in any kind, in perfecting of our Manufactures, may be free from Custom or Excise, or any other Imposition whatsoever; and that on such of our Manufactures as may be had in other parts, there may be no Custom charged; by which means we shall be able to

Note 5. Our woollen Manufacture, and all Commodities imployed in the perfecting of them, to be free of Custom and Excise.

to ſell our Goods the cheaper, to the prejudice and diſcouragement of other Nations, which at preſent, as we now ſtand, is the only way left us to inlarge our Exportation very much, and to regain our Reputation in Foraign parts; whereas when our Goods are dear and ill conditioned, they will accuſtom themſelves to ſome other ſorts of Clothing of their own inventions, as we have found by woful experience, and a Trade is ſooner loſt than gained.

Note 6. VI. That if there be an abſolute neceſſity that we muſt pay high Cuſtoms, to which (I muſt confeſs) I am no friend, becauſe 'tis ſo great an enemy, and obſtructor of Trade, and thereby of the Nation in general, That Foraign Commodities, Imported and Expended by us, may be valued in the Cuſtoms or Exciſe, according and proportionable to the real want we have of them; That is to ſay, that Silks, and innumerable other Commodities, which ſerve more to pleaſe our various fancies, than to ſupply our neceſſities, and are moſt deſtructive to our own Manufactures, may be the higheſt charged with duties; whereby our own Manufactures, of the ſame nature, will find more Incouragement. This is known to be the practice and policy of other Countries; and this will be one grand means and motive to draw over Foraign Workmen to us: which, I am ſure, will be more our advantage, than to have them ſend their Commodities to us. But ſome will ſay, That to charge fine Goods with high Duties, is the way to have none paid at all. And I ſhould very willingly ſubmit to their Opinion, if buſineſſes were not better looked after, than it is at preſent; but yet, I will dare to ſay with boldneſs, that were there a thorough Reformation in the management of that part of His Majeſties Revenue; the Cuſtoms of fine, rich Goods, might in ſome good proportion be as well ſecured, as of Commodities of the greateſt bulk; wherein, I think, I could make appear there is as great fraud at preſent, as in any other; as to inſtance only Wine and Tobacco, which you will ſay cannot be eaſily conveyed aſhore in a Pocket, or under a Cloak. By all which, we ſhall very much leſſen the Importation of Forain Manufactures, and by ſo much the more incourage our own, and ſave our ſelves from a great

Thoſe Commodities which we want leaſt, and which are moſt deſtructive to our own Manufactures, to be moſt laden with Duties.

The Cuſtom or Exciſe of fine Goods to be ſecured, as well as Goods of greater bulk.

great deal of loſs, which we now bear, far beyond what moſt perſons are ſenſible of.

VII. That for the further and more effectual Incouragement of Strangers to come and live, and incorporate amongſt us; and make uſe of our Ports and Shipping, all manner of Goods Imported, and afterwards Exported, may have the whole Duty repaid them (reſerving only ſo much as will defray the charge of Officers, *&c.*) this not to be the priviledge of one Port only (as is *Dover* at preſent, which will but help further to cheat the King of his Revenue, and deſtroy the Trade of other parts of the Nation, who do not enjoy the ſame liberty) but of all the Ports and Creeks of *England* and *Ireland*. This I am ſure (next to the utter throwing down of the Cuſtoms, to which, I confeſs, I am moſt inclined) would draw a great Trade to us from all parts, and make *England*, in a ſhort time, to be really that grand Magazin of Trade, now ſo much talked of, and deſired by all perſons. What at this time more loudly proclaims the decay of our Trade, than the dayly failing of ſo many perſons in their Eſtates, who have been very well looked upon, and the filling of all our Gaols and Priſons; the great numbers of poor, miſerable wretches who lie begging in every corner of the Nation; yea, many Starved to Death even in this great City of *London*: Certainly, whoever walks our ſtreets, and are ſo tender hearted as to obſerve the ſeveral ſad objects of Charity, of poor Men, Women, and hunger ſtarved Children lying in every corner, and takes notice of their doleful groans and complaints, muſt bear me witneſs of this ſad truth; To which I might alſo add another ſort of Poor, who, God knows, are as neceſſitous as any others, and yet dare not, or are aſhamed to diſcover their ſad and languiſhing condition; and although their ſecret ſighs and complaints are ſeldom heard here below, yet certainly they are of that nature, as that they do very often aſcend up to heaven And if theſe be truths, then certainly 'tis worthy the conſideration and care of the Great Council of the Nation, to provide for the relief and redreſs of thoſe evils which ſo much threaten our utter deſtruction, by all good ways and means; for which nothing can be more proper, than to remove every thing that obſtructs our Trade; and herein I look upon the Cuſtoms to be very conſiderable.

Note 7. Forain Commodities Exported to have the whole Impoſt paid back, which will draw a great Trade to us from all parts, and make *England* in a ſhort time the grand Mart of the World.

The multitude of our poor in *England*, do loudly proclaim our decay in Trade.

Note 8. That *Ireland* may not be discouraged in their setting up of wollen Manufactures, because otherwise 'twil be almost impossible to keep their Wools out of the hands of Strangers.

VIII. That there may be somewhat of Tenderness and Indulgence used towards *Ireland*, for its improvement in Trade, and that particularly in their Wollen Manufactures; I fear the discouraging of them from working up their Wools, and, in lieu thereof, setting them upon a Linnen Manufacture, is not so strongly and prudently founded, as some will imagine; for if *England* will neither permit them to work up their Wools, nor yet take them off at moderate rates, I cannot understand but that 'tis very rational for them to sell them to Forainers; yea, certainly, let what Law will be made in *England* to the contrary, I fear 'twill be hard to keep them out of the hands of Srtangers; and if this be granted me, then I know 'twill not be denyed, but that there can be no Wools transported out of *Ireland* into *France*, *Holland*, or *Flanders*, but must consequently tend to the destruction of our *English* Drapery, as we see it is at this day. I must confess, that I am of opinion, that if we did but keep our Wools in *England* and *Ireland*, and both take care in their Manufactury (leaving the Grand Trade of Linnens to other Nations, who thrive in it at present, and have been so many ages setled therein) we should find our accompt better than by making of Linnens; for, unless we can content our selves to exchange our Woollen for their Linnen (which else they will not be able to buy) I know not what Trade we shall drive with them: If we had all Commodities necessary within our selves, we should soon lose the honour we have gotten by our Navigation; Merchants, Seamen, and Ships would then signifie but little; whereas, at present, they have the honour to be styled *Englands walls*.

Note 9. Liberty to Forainers to trade and inhabit in some of his Majesties Plantations, especially in *Virginia*, where there wants nothing but able and industrous persons.

IX. That whereas some of our Forain Plantations are at present but very ill furnished with Persons and Planters of our own Nation: Incouragement may be given to Forainers to Trade and Plant especially in *Virginia*, where there wants nothing but good Workmen, that Countrey giving so very fair hopes of producing several rich Commodities, far above Tobacco; which would be of very great benefit to those Plantations, as well as to his Majesties Kingdoms of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*. If his Majesty would but admit a Trade with the *French*, only for some years, there would soon be

Transported

Transported of all sorts of able Workmen from thence, fit for any imployment: whereas, we only (or generally) send thither the very Rubbish and Off-scowring of his Majesties Dominions; Persons, for the most part bred up to nothing but Idleness, and all manner of vice. And from thence, I humbly conceive it is, that we reap no better fruits: But I durst not say more herein, because I have very good reason to believe, that the interest of those Plantations will be now pleaded for by those who know it far better, and are more nearly concerned; and likewise because it would strike at our Act of Navigation, which I must not adventure to Oppose.

500 *Frenchmen* shall do more good in *Virginia*, then 3000 of our *English*, such as we commonly send

X. That whatever revenue may be setled on his Majesty that will be best for every degree of Persons in the Nation, which will least disturb or burthen our Trade, and which may be mannaged with the least Charge, and number of Officers, and will be subject to the least Fraud. A multitude of Officers (we know) strike deep in the spoiling and consuming of a Noble Revenue. I must confess, my thoughts are strongly fixt upon a kind of Excise, or Duty raised by way of Licence upon the Retailers of Beer, Ale, Wine, and other Liquours, and also upon Tobacco, and some other Inland Excise; which with a small Monthly Tax, and some other wayes, which I am informed are at present under Consideration, will be found a Revenue more certain and Honourable for his Majesty, than the Customs, and less grievous to the people: whereby the Salary of 10000 persons (at least) would be saved; besides the innumerable frauds that too many of them, and generally most other persons concern'd, now frequently practise; whereby his Majesty looses at least half of his Customs: those persons would then be forced to put themselves upon some more ingenious imployment, the return whereof would be of better concernment to the Common-wealth, whereas at present some will adventure to say. that they are very unprofitable members. If our Nobility and Gentry would but be perswaded, that it is they who really bear the great burthen of the Customs, by paying (it may be) treble the Customs upon all the Goods they buy, of what really comes into the Kings Coffers; and that the Customs being

Note 10. That Revenue which shall be setled on his Majesty will be be best for the Nation, which will least disturb Trade.

An In-land Excise better than the Customs.

The Customs occasion a multitude of sins in the Nation, by bribery, lying, perjury, and all manner of indirect and disingenuous wayes.

'Tis the Nobility and Gentry that suffer most by the Customs: they pay at least 2 s. in 20 s. more than if there were no Custom on all Forain goods.

taken off, they ſhould buy all Commodities ſo much the cheaper, and that by a free Trade, their Lands would be advanced very much; I ſhould then have ſome hopes that they would appear the Greateſt Oppoſers of the Cuſtoms in the Nation.

Note 11. Care in placing Officers for the Management of his Majeſties Revenue.

XI. That his Majeſties Revenue may be committed to the care and mannagement of ſuch perſons as may be every way qualified for ſo great a Truſt; not only for their Faithfulneſs, but alſo for their Ability: wherein the purchaſing of Offices is very unſafe, and frequently begets much corruption in Officers; and that ſuch Sallaries may be ſetled and allowed, as may (if poſſible) ingage Officers to reſiſt every temptation. His Majeſty, I am confident, knows ere this to His coſt, that he hath gained little by this kind of Husbandry. A Sallary of 30 or 40 *l. per annum* to him that hath been accuſtomed to ſpend 2 or 300 *l.* goes but a little way, and it muſt be raiſed one way or other. We ſee frequently, that perſons well educated, and who have known what it is to live well, by being reduced to a low and neceſſitous condition, are too apt to be tempted to ſome diſhonourable action, to maintain their port.

Note 12. Our great exceſs and wantonneſs in Apparel, and all other Expences above other Nations, is one great cauſe of our decay in Trade.

XII. That ſome way may be found out to reſtrain our great and ſinful exceſs in Apparel, throughout all his Majeſties Dominions (at leaſt until ſuch time as we are better able to ſupport it) and that eſpecially in perſons of low rank. That ſin hath no other good in it, but to enrich our Neighbours, and ruine us in our Eſtates and Manufactures, and to lead us into all other vices and diſorders. And I am confident, that whoſoever ſhall make a ſtrict inquiry into the Cauſes of the ſad decay we now complain of in our Trade, and the great ſcarſity of Money throughout theſe Kingdoms, will find that our Undoing proceeds from nothing more, then our moſt abominable extravagant expences of all kinds (wherein we yet ſeem to glory in that which is our ſhame, and will perpetually lie as a reproach upon us, that we will exceed the proudeſt Nations in the World). And certainly, if it be true, that the *French* and other Nations have the advantage of us in the over-ballance of Trade; 'tis altogether as true, that this our vain humor (which cannot be ſatisfied with any thing but what coſts dear and comes from far) is one great cauſe of it. We might ſtill

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have from them ſo much of their Gallantry *a la mode* as might be fit for all perſons who are fit to uſe them; and yet not Import by many hundred thouſand pounds *per annum*, ſo much as now we do. This I am ſure would help to ſet the ballance of Trade right betwixt us, and ſoon beget a greater plenty of Mony in *England*; eſpecially if together with this reſtraint, there were an abſolute decry and prohibition againſt all gold and ſilver Lace, Cloth of gold or ſilver, Embroderies, gold and ſilver Ribbons, Fringe, Buttons, Hatbands, guilding of Coaches, and other the like undoing vanities; alſo, the waſte and folly of Funeral gold Rings (now ſo highly in faſhion, and ſo common in the City of *London*). Our conveniences and advantages hereby would be very many, and very great, as may be obſerved in the following Particulars.

The *French* gain abundantly more in proportion in returns of their *Mode*, than by their *more Staple Commodities*, for we have in effect that which is little berter than nothing for our ready mony, or, indeed, that which is worſe then nothing, becauſe the *Mode* is a Tyrant, and too often ruins he beſt ſervants by ingaging them into ma ny other kind of expences and inconveniencies.

1. When all perſons ſhall be thus habited agreeable to their Quality, there muſt then neceſſarily follow a far greater expence and conſumption of our own Manufactures, then at preſent; a good large Gown and a Hat will then ſerve for thoſe who now think a plain Silk to be ſomewhat beneath their degree, and th s will be one good means to keep our Wools from being Tranſported, and give imployment to ſo many thouſands more of our own people, as our extravagancies maintain in Forain parts; whereby we may have hopes in few years to be come again the greateſt Maſters of all Wollen Manufactures in the World. Let us but incourage the wearing of our own Manufactures our ſelves, we ſhould grow rich although the *French* or *Dutch* ſhould not buy a pound of us in ſeven years, which they can never do, if we can keep our Wools from them.

1. Advantage by a reſtraint in Apparel.,

2. Hereby we ſhall be able to buy all rich Silks and other coſtly Commodities, which we ſhall then want from Forain parts, abundantly cheaper than we can at p eſent; we know too well that they make us pay dear for our fancies, I am ſure this will ſave to perſons of Quality a great deal of Mony yearly.

2. Advantage.

3. By this means we ſhall turn our preſent want into a greater plenty of Mony: Our gold and ſilver Lace, *&c.* will then go to the Mint, which is computed (by ſome who pretend to know moſt) to amount to, in *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, near Two Millions Sterling; whereas, I am ſure at preſent,

3. Advantage.

his Majeſties Mint muſt expect but little work, as long as Goldſmiths can afford to give 2 *d. per* ounce for Bullion above the Mint rate, which then they would not be able to do. A plenty of Mony will ſet all the wheels of Trade going, and that will gain the hearts of the Commons to their Superiers, whereas at preſent, we are apt to murmur, and lay the blame of all our ſtraights and miſcariages upon our Magiſtrates.

4. Advantage. 4. This will alſo take off very much of that occaſion of expence to which many perſons of Honour are now ingaged, above and beyond their real abilities in point of fortune, whereby either to be diſtinguiſhed from the inferiour ſort of people, or in hopes thereby of ſome preferment or advantage; and by a plenty of Money, and their keeping within compaſs, preſerve them from taking up Goods and Monies upon ſuch diſadvantagious and ruining terms, as they now do, whereby the Shopkeeper, the Uſurer, the Scrivener, and the Broker, make a dayly pray of them, conſtraining them either to ſell or mortage their Eſtates upon very diſhonorable terms, to the utter undoing of many good Families; by which means (beſides the ill reputation they gain, the baſeſt Commons might again become their Maſters: from the ſad effects whereof we are but ſo lately de'ivered, as I think we have juſt cauſe to dread the very thoughts of it for time to come; and yet, although I muſt not dare plainly to charge any of our Nobility or Gentry, with any kind of Extravagancies; yet, I may be bold to ſay, that 'tis their Gallantry, *&c.* that not only gives example, but life and ſupport alſo to the Pride of the Commons; if they would be but more moderate in their Expences, they would buy all Commodities much cheaper, and pay better: the Commons (eſpecially the Citizens) would ſoon be brought to know themſelves better; and yet, all honeſt and ſerious men amongſt them would be far more pleaſed, and honor the Court more then now they think they have reaſon to do.

Advantage. 5. This will alſo keep perſons of low degree and inferiour Trades in ſo good order, as they will be better able to provide for their Families, then now they do, becauſe, at preſent, rather then not be in ſome kind accommodated, as well as their richer Neigbours, they will run in debt every where, for Meat, Drink

and

and Apparel, which they take up of a certain ſort of People in *London* at exceſſive rates, to pay by weekly proportions, whereby they can never arive to any Eſtate, ſo as to leave their children any proviſion for their ſupport and maintenance, ſo that the Parent dying, the Children are left in charge on the Pariſh, which falls heavy in many parts of the Nation, being worſe than a Tax of A hundred thouſand pounds *per Menſem*.

6. This good Order and Decency in Apparel will beget more faithfulenſs in Servants, who now, too many of them, and too frequently rob their Maſters, to ſupport their Pride and other Vices which attend it. What will not ſome Men and Women now dare to attempt to ſatisfie their Ambition, and their luſts? 'Tis ſad to conſider how vainly prodigal, and corrupt the generality of the Youth are in this age; and how little of good example can be expected they will be able to give their Children in the next age, if God doth not in mercy to us, direct our Magiſtrate to contrive ſome way for our Reformation. 6. Advantage.

7. By this Reſtraint and Order in Apparel, we ſhall know how to *give honour to whom honour is due*; we ſhall know the quality of the perſon (in ſome meaſure) by the habit, which, I am ſure, we cannot now eaſily do, being diſguiſed with too much Pride; that which now is thought hardly good enough for an ordinary Servant, will then become better perſons, and each have more mony in their purſes. Good *Engliſh* Sarge, or other of our *Engliſh* Stuffs, will be cheaper and wear three times as long as Silk will do. 7. Advantage.

8. By this good Order and reſtraint in Apparel, and Reformation in our other concernments, as is before expreſſed, there will be ſo great a plenty of Mony, and ſo flouriſhing a Trade, that Lands will be valued very much higher, and all Forain Commodities be brought very much cheaper, than at preſent; which will be of great advantage and improvement in the Eſtates of all perſons of Quality; and hereby alſo will your Tenants find themſelves better able to pay their Rents, and all men generally be better able to pay their Debts, without being compelled to ſuch diſhonorable ſhiftings, as too many (otherwiſe Honourable perſons) do now make uſe of. 8. Advantage.

9. By

9. Advantage. 9. By this means alſo, the Merchant will not have ſo much occaſion to uſe his Credit in Forain parts, for the buying of thoſe ſuperfluous Commodities, at ſo great diſadvantage and loſs ; which for want of plenty of Mony, and good payment from his Debtors, he is forced to do by taking Credit, by exchange from *French*, *Dutch*, *Italian*, and other Banquers, for which he payes after the rate of 20 *per Cent. per annum*. (which in truth is but a refined Extortion with a better name) all which goes at preſent out of our *Engliſh* Stock, and is one great means to undo ſo many good Merchants and Trades-men, as we ſee dayly fail, which would be then much remedied; whereas at preſent we are ſtrangely become a prey to all the Nations round about us, they growing rich by our wantonneſs and ill husbandry.

10. Advantage. 10. And laſtly, by all this his Majeſties Revenue will come in more plentifully and cheerfully then we finde it doth at preſent ; for when the Kingdom flouriſheth in Trade, certainly the King can never want a Revenue, whereby the reproach and diſhonour which now lies on the Court, & all that have relation to it (wherein indeed the good ſuffer with, or rather for, the unhandſome dealing of the bad, who lie ſo deeply in Debt, without taking any thoughts how to ſatisfie, but diſhonourably ſheltering themſelves under a Protection) will then be very much taken off, to the great Honour, Happineſs, and ſatisfaction of his Majeſty, and all his Loyal Subjects ; and then the mouths of men of ill Principles and worſe Affections to his Majeſties Government will be ſtopped, whereas at preſent they are very zealouſly watchful to take hold of any occaſion, whereby they may render the Court odious, and thereby take advantage to debauch as many as they can from their Alleagiance ; but yet, if God ſhall ſo far direct his Majeſty, and his great Councel to ſuch means as may tend to our Recovery and Proſperity, I doubt not but he will turn all the black deſignes, plots and contrivances of wicked and unpeaceable men upon their own heads, and that we ſhall yet live to injoy once more both the bleſſings of Peace and Plenty.

Which God grant.